

Personal Watercraft Use In the National Park System

Prior to March 2000, seven national park units decided to prohibit personal watercraft use (PWC) in part of or in the entire park:

- Everglades National Park
- Yellowstone National Park
- Glacier National Park
- North Cascades National Park
- Olympic National Park
- Buffalo National Scenic River
- Ozarks National Scenic River



In March 2000, the National Park Service (NPS) issued regulations that generally prohibited PWC use in 66 of 87 park units nationwide. At the same time, NPS established a two-year grace period for 21 park units where PWC usage was prevalent. Most of the other 21 units engaged in Environmental Assessments. Although the grace period for determining the status of PWC use expired April 22, 2002, nine units still have not made their final determination.

➤ **Units banning PWC use:**

- Cape Cod National Seashore
- Cumberland Island National Seashore
- Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area
- Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore
- Whiskeytown National Recreation Area

➤ **Units open for PWC use:**

- Lake Mead National Recreation Area – allowed continued use after March 2000
- Assateague Island National Seashore - opened May 2003
- Lake Mead National Recreation Area - opened April 2003
- Glen Canyon National Recreation Area - opened September 2003
- Amistad National Recreation Area - opened May 2004
- Lake Meredith National Recreation Area - opened May 2004
- Lake Roosevelt National Recreation Area - opened June 2004
- Chickasaw National Recreation Area - opened September 2004



➤ **Units awaiting final decision:**

- Bighorn Canyon National Recreation Area
- Fire Island National Seashore
- Pictures Rocks National Lakeshore
- Gulf Islands National Seashore
- Curecanti National Recreation Area
- Gateway National Recreation Area
- Cape Lookout National Seashore
- Big Thicket National Preserve
- Padre Island National Seashore